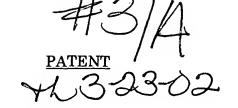
[217] Attorney Docket No.: CGW-263.1



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant

Nicholas F. Borrelli, Thomas P. Seward III,

and Charlene M. Smith

Appl. No.

Not Yet Assigned

Filed

Simultaneously Herewith

For

SILICA WITH LOW COMPACTION UNDER HIGH

ENERGY IRRADIATION

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to its initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph which appears at page 1, lines 4-8, of the specification with the following:

This application is a divisional of U.S. Application No.

09/254,114 filed February 25, 1999, which is the U.S. national phase under 35 USC §371 of International Application No. PCT/US97/15233 filed August 27, 1997, which was published in English under PCT Article 21(2) on March 5, 1998 as International Publication No. WO 98/08775. This application claims the benefit under 35 USC §119(e) of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/024995, filed August 29, 1996. The contents of U.S. Applications Nos. 09/254,114 and 60/024,995 and International Application No. PCT/US97/15233 are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties. The invention relates to stepper lens from fused silica having low compaction under

A